Infection Control Programme

2036. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the programme for improvement of infection control and waste management through appropriate methods; and

(b) whether any significant progress has been noticed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (b) The Government of India (Ministry of Environment & Forests) has notified Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. These Rules have prescribed mandatory steps to ensure handling of Bio-Medical waste without any adverse effect to human health and environment. This Ministry also has a programme under which financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1.50 crores is provided to the State Government Hospitals for upgradation/creation of infrastructure for management of bio-medical waste.

In so far as Central Government Hospitals are concerned, an Infection Control Committee is in existence in each of the hospital and the Hospital Waste is disposed of as per the guidelines laid under the Bio-Medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1998. All these efforts have led to an improvement in management and control of infection in the hospitals.

National Commission on Macro Economics and Health

2037. DR.A.R. KIDWAI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a National Commission on Macro Economics and Health;

(b) if so, whether the Commission would be headed jointly with the Ministry of Finance;

(c) whether the objective is to plug gaps in healthcare facilities and also to work towards making India the healthcare hub of the region;

(d) if so, the other objectives of this Commission; and

(e) the extent of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. The National Commission on Macro Economics and Health, under the joint chair of Union Health and Family Welfare and Finance Ministers, has been recently constituted. The objective of this Commission will be to broadly assess the impact of increased investment in the health sector on poverty reduction as also the overall economic development of India. More specifically, this would involve establishing epidemiological base line operations and targets thereof in order to formulate a long-term programme for scaling up essential health interventions, with the focus on the poor.

Essentiality Certificate for New Medical and Dental Colleges

2038. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR.T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has held while disposing off a batch of appeals challenging a judgment of Andhra Pradesh High Court that States have jurisdiction to grant essentiality certificates to an institution for setting up medical and dental colleges but this power should be exercised in a reasonable manner; and